

**Minutes of UURMaPA Business Meeting during Winter Conference – February 20, 2019  
New Braunfels, Texas**

**Unitarian Universalist Retired Ministers and Partners Association**

Board Members Present: Barbara Child, Marni Harmony, Dave Hunter, Ginger Luke, Diane Miller, Jaco ten Hove, Judy Welles.

Board Members Absent: Art Severance, Cathie Severance.

*Note: This meeting was mainly for the purpose of informing those UURMaPA members present of future plans and current issues, as well as giving people an opportunity to ask questions and make announcements. No decisions were made at this meeting.*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP**

Diane Miller, Vice President, spoke about the UURMaPA workshop scheduled for the 2019 General Assembly. The title will be “We’ve Come Too Far to Turn Back Now.” The focus will be on who has been left out and what we want to do about it.

Diane also mentioned that we invite all retiring ministers to lunch the day after STLT to welcome them into UURMaPA. Judy Welles, President, and Diane will represent UURMaPA at STLT as well as at the luncheon for family members of ministers and partners who have died during the past year.

**AREA CONNECTORS**

Representing Art and Cathie Severance, Coordinators of Area Connectors, who were unable to be at this meeting, Diane mentioned the current need for Area Connectors for five areas: Bay Area Inland, Central Midwest, Heartland North, Metro NY/NJ, Joseph Priestly North, with Eastern Canada to be added soon. Diane asked for volunteers who would like to become involved: Donna Clifford and Ann Schranz volunteered.

**BOARD’S ANTI-RACISM EFFORTS**

Judy Welles, President, spoke about the Board’s major initiative to get ready for ministers and partners of color who will coming into UURMaPA membership in greater numbers in the years to come. She explained how the Board has been attending to how we can become more welcoming. She mentioned that over the past several months at each Board meeting one Board member has facilitated a discussion of an essay and the response to it in the Skinner House book *Centering: Navigating Race, Authenticity, and Power in Ministry*, edited by Mitra Rahnama. She described the Board’s work with consultant Annette Marquis on the Intercultural Development Inventory, and she mentioned that we have begun work on a long-range plan to be announced. She encouraged everyone present to encourage persons of color who are retiring to become active in UURMaPA. She mentioned that there are no dues and that we operate with a budget that depends on grants and donations. She invited those present to make a donation that very day to Treasurer Dave Hunter.

**CONFERENCES**

Ginger Luke, the Board member with the Conferences portfolio, announced that the Fall 2019 Conference will be held at Wisdom House in Litchfield, Connecticut. She mentioned that the program outline will be the same as at this conference though there will be a different Odyssey presenter and different panelists.

Dorothy Emerson, Rainbow History Project Coordinator, mentioned that Wisdom House is run by progressive nuns and that there is a feminist theology perspective at Wisdom House. She mentioned that it is one hour away from Hartford, Connecticut. She will update the time line begun at this Conference, to be continued at the Fall Conference.

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#### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Barbara ten Hove, incoming chair of the Nominating Committee, explained that by bylaw revision, the committee is being expanded to include five members. She mentioned that coming to conferences is the best way to become involved. She invited everyone present to let her know of any interest in any specific position.

Judy Welles mentioned that she and Marni Harmony will conclude their Board terms at the end of June. At that time Diane Miller, currently Vice President, will become President; Phyllis Hubbell will become Vice President; and Susan Rak will come into the At-large Board position with the portfolio of Good Officer and Liaison to the UUMA and UUA.

#### **ELDERBERRIES**

Jaco ten Hove, editor of our newsletter *Elderberries*, mentioned that it is a quarterly and that it is in color if read online. He put out a call for material, especially welcoming material from partners as well as ministers. He gave special thanks to Jay Atkinson and Roger Rochester, who prepare obituaries for ministers and partners respectively. He also thanked Judy Welles for her attention to proofreading and to Duane Fickeisen for his contributions as webmaster. He assured everyone that the up-coming spring issue will have lots of pictures from this conference.

#### **PRE-OBITUARIES**

Duane Fickeisen, webmaster, explained that he keeps pre-obituaries in a private file at home. He said he has 20 or 25 now and invited everyone present to compose theirs and send it to him.

#### **RAINBOW HISTORY PROJECT**

Dorothy Emerson, Coordinator, updated those present on the current stage of the project and issued some invitations and requests. In particular, she expressed her wish that a book would come as the fruit of the project. She asked that people with relevant contacts let her know of them. In response, someone mentioned Liz Strong, the Historical Society, and also suggested checking in with each UUMA Chapter. Dorothy mentioned one idea she has of making this an internship project for a divinity student. She also said she would like to find someone to get people's stories in shape for posting on the website. Also, she is looking for people to interview colleagues and write up the interview notes.

Duane Fickeisen suggested to Dorothy that she bring up her invitations and requests at the GA workshop and also at the luncheon.

Richard Speck suggested Darrick Jackson as a UUMA contact.

#### **WEB SITE MATTERS**

Duane Fickeisen invited everyone to point out to him any errors they find on the web site. He also mentioned that he will be posting registration materials for the fall conference as soon as they are available.

#### **NEW CAREGIVERS GROUP**

Duane Fickeisen let everyone know that a new UURMaPA group for caregivers is forming and is expected to launch on Saturday, March 2. The group will meet regularly on Zoom and will split into two or more groups if the number of interested participants warrants. Anyone wishing to join the group is invited to contact Sylvia Howe at [sylhowe42@gmail.com](mailto:sylhowe42@gmail.com)

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**FACEBOOK GROUP(S) FOR RETIRING AND RETIRED MINISTERS**

Theresa Novak let everyone know that on the current UURMaPA Facebook page only the administrator can post. This is not a “chat” group page. There is also a UU Retiring Ministers Facebook group, but it is confidential. She volunteered to create a different group that would be closed but not confidential.

**EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS**

Ginger Luke expressed thanks to Registrar Lois Wesener for all her work that made this conference so successful even though Lois herself was not present to experience the fruit of her work.

Judy Welles thanked Phyllis Hubbell for the original idea that led to having this conference. She thanked Jim Eller for coordinating and emceeding the variety show.

Phyllis Hubbell thanked Dorothy Emerson for all her work as coordinator of the Rainbow History Project. She thanked Marni Harmony, Gretchen Woods, Ginger Luke, Judy Welles, Susan LaMar, and all of the speakers and panelists for their contributions to the conference. She thanked Judy Welles not only for all her work as President of UURMaPA but also especially for her work on the grant application that made possible both the Rainbow History Project in general and the conference in particular.

Dorothy Emerson expressed her thanks to Susan LaMar for her work on the timeline. She also thanked all those who were interviewed during the conference.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Child, Secretary